

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 17, 2020

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The Arizona Congressional Delegation wants to thank you for your continued support of our state's National Guard response to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. We are proud of their many accomplishments, which could not have occurred without your continued authorization of the federal cost share.

Maintaining the one hundred percent federal cost-share for Arizona National Guard units will allow them to continue to execute missions vital to our state and the Republic's response to the COVID-19 threat. To date the Arizona National Guard has provided logistical support in the form of distribution of PPE across the state and aide to state food banks ensuring our citizens in need have access to food during this crisis. On average, they have also set up four COVID-19 testing sites per day around the state. These efforts have supported the economic reopening of rural and tribal communities.

There is still significant work to be done to combat COVID-19 in Arizona and throughout the country. As Operation Warp Speed advances forward our Guardsmen are already planning to support mass distribution of the vaccine once it is made available. They are also planning for the reopening of our schools and to support requests from our rural and less financially flexible districts for testing and/or sanitation support.

Without continued full federal cost-share, the Arizona National Guard will face making the difficult decision of reducing mission sets to align with available state resources. Food banks, and support to them, are particularly in high demand in Arizona due to the economic impacts COVID-19 has had on our tourism and service industries, resulting in higher unemployment. There will be additional necessary reductions to our support for on-going testing efforts that are vital to re-opening our state, communities, and schools as well as needed to be able to quickly respond in the event of a future and likely outbreak.

We ask that you continue your support for our National Guard forces and maintain full federal support levels until these vital missions are no longer needed.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Martha McSally in blue ink.

Martha McSally
U.S. Senator

Handwritten signature of Debbie Lesko in blue ink.

Debbie Lesko
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Andy Biggs in blue ink.

Andy Biggs
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of David Schweikert in blue ink.

David Schweikert
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Paul A. Gosar in blue ink.

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress